



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Cod National Seashore 99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667

508 349-3785 phone
508 349-9052 fax

Cape Cod National Seashore News Release

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Contact: Sue Moynihan, Chief of Interpretation and
Cultural Resources Management
508-349-3785 x 230

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Ham Radio Stations and Agencies Slated to Commemorate Sinking of the *Portland*

A ham radio event to commemorate the 1898 loss of the steamship *Portland* will be held on Friday, November 25, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at Cape Cod National Seashore's Province Lands Visitor Center in Provincetown. The event is being sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the National Park Service.

While on a regularly scheduled overnight trip from Boston to her namesake city, in Maine, the *Portland* sank in the waters between Cape Ann and Cape Cod during a fierce November northeaster. Over 190 people lost their lives in the greatest tragedy of the storm, which came to be known as the Portland Gale. Debris from the *Portland* washed up on Cape Cod beaches, and some items may still be found in local homes and museums. Today, the shipwreck lies within the boundary of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

During the event, which will be held at the Province Lands Visitor Center in Provincetown, members of the KM1CC Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club of Cape Cod National Seashore will operate a fully featured amateur radio station in voice and Morse code modes. Club members will carry the story of the *Portland* via ham radio throughout the United States and the world during the 8-hour event. A model of the *Portland* will be displayed by the Truro Historical Society, national marine sanctuary staff will answer questions about maritime archaeology and

ongoing work at the Portland site, and a meteorologist from the National Weather Service will present a *Storm* program.

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The National Park Service recently listed the wreck of the steamship Portland on its National Register of Historic Places. According to Barbara Dougan, Education Specialist for Cape Cod National Seashore, this event will afford the public the opportunity to learn more about “New England’s *Titanic*,” the loss of which severely affected the lives and social fabric of many New England families. The greatest impact was on the community of Portland, Maine, where many of the passengers and crew had their homes.

The event is free and open to the public. The Province Lands Visitor Center is located on Race Point Road, off Route 6 in Provincetown. The center overlooks an area that includes the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, where the *Portland* went down.

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Further Information:

National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore:

www.nps.gov/caco/heritage

National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration,

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary:

Anne.Smrcina@noaa.gov or phone: 781-545-8026 x 204

W1P Amateur Radio Event Coordinator

Henry Brown, K1WCC@arrl.net or phone: 508-540-0753

Cape Cod National Seashore
National Park Service

KM1CC Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club
W1P
Special Event November 25, 2005
Operating Frequencies

Start Date: November 25, 2005

Start Time (UTC): 1400 zulu

End Date: November 25, 2005

End Time (UTC): 2200 zulu

Four main (exact) frequencies in MHz to be used: (Note expect to be within 20 kHz frequencies.)

7.050

14.050

7.260

14.260

Stations contacted may request a QSL card by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope SASE via KM1CC.

KM1CC Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club
Cape Cod National Seashore
99 Marconi Site Rd
Wellfleet, MA 02667

For additional W1P radio operation information contact:

Henry Brown, K1WCC, W1P Radio Operations Manager
at K1WCC@arrl.net. or phone: (508) 540-0753